

B<sup>3</sup> In one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a composition comprising an engineering polymer having a backbone comprising repeat units, at least 80 mol-% of which repeat units comprise one or more oxygen or nitrogen atoms disposed in said backbone; about 1%-30% by volume of a mineral filler having an aspect ratio of 5 or less, the filler having an average equivalent spherical diameter in the range of about 0.1 to less than about 3.5 micrometers, and a saturated organic acid, salt thereof, or a mixture thereof, at a concentration of at least about 0.5% by weight of the mineral filler.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

A marked-up version of the claims is contained at the end of this response.

B<sup>4</sup> Subcl<sup>1</sup> (twice amended) A composition comprising (a) an engineering polymer having a backbone comprising repeat units, at least 80 mol-% of which repeat units comprise one or more oxygen or nitrogen atoms disposed in said backbone; (b) about 1%-30% by volume of a mineral filler having an aspect ratio of 5 or less, the filler having an average equivalent spherical diameter in the range of about 0.1 to less than about 3.5 micrometers; and (c) a saturated organic acid, salt thereof, or a mixture thereof, at a concentration of at least about 0.5% by weight of the mineral filler.

B<sup>5</sup> 10. (once amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the engineering polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyacetal, polyamide, and polyester.

11. (once amended) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the engineering polymer is polyoxymethylene homopolymer.

12. (once amended) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the engineering polymer is a copolymer comprising repeat units of oxymethylene and up to 10 mol-% of oxyalkylene repeat units having adjacent methylene groups.

13. (once amended) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the engineering polymer is nylon 66 or nylon 6.

14. (once amended) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the engineering polymer is polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

15. (once amended) A molded article comprising the composition of Claim 1.